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OFFICIAL, EMIGRE VIEWS OF ALBANIAN ELECTIONS

PATRIOTISM OF ALBANIAN PEOPLE EXPRESSED IN ELECTIONS -- Tirana, Zeri i Popul-
 lit, 23 Sep 52

On 21 September 1952, the Albanian people enjoyed a great holiday. In the early hours of the morning thousands of workers went to the polls with such slogans as: "All votes for the candidates of the Democratic Front!"

The results of the day's voting showed that from 99.54 to 99.96 percent of the Front candidates were elected in various rreths. These results proved once more the great strength of the Albanian people, their boundless love for the party and Enver Hoxha, and their will to fight for world peace, marching with the Soviet peoples under the leadership of the great Stalin.

The voting was a victory for the people. The workers voted for new plants and factories; the peasants for progressive agriculture with plenty of tractors and agricultural machinery; the young for more schools and a happy future. Mothers voted against the horrors of war; soldiers for the defense of their country. But the vote was not merely a great victory for the people. It was also a great promise by the party and Hoxha that Albania will go on to new victories.

"Votes for the Front are bullets in the hearts of enemies!" The voting on 21 September showed the hatred of the working masses for enemies within and without, for those who wish to plunge the world into another bloody war. Some time ago, the Titoists, tools of American imperialism, burned the polls of the border village of Morine in Kukes to frighten the villagers. But Morine's reply to the Titoists was to vote 100 percent for the Front.

The candidates of the Democratic Front are the vanguard in the building of socialism and fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan; they are the support of the people's authority and express the people's aspirations.

The Month of Albanian-Soviet Friendship greatly influenced the 21 September elections. Hundreds of workers at the polls expressed their gratitude to the USSR, Stalin, and Hoxha, without whom they could not have achieved the freedom and new life they enjoy.

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ALBANIAN ELECTIONS BRING NEW WAVE OF TERROR -- Pristina, Flamuri i Liris,
Jan 53

The elections of leaders of the so-called Democratic Front are bringing a new wave of terror to all rreths and towns of Albania. The Central Committee of the Albanian Workers Party has been exploiting political events so fresh arrests can be made. Mehmet Shehu, the Minister of the Interior, has given orders to arrest any person suspected of a hostile attitude toward the Front. He is carrying out the orders of the Soviet mission in Albania by raising a hue and cry against any persons who show the least dissatisfaction or those who do not take part in the Front's conferences.

Shehu is adding to the existing terror in those parts of Albania which border on Yugoslavia, including Shkoder, Kukes, and Kolegacaj rreths. During the preparations for the elections, more than 100 persons in those rreths were arrested by order of Shehu, and accused of being enemies of the Front as well as of the state, the people, and socialism.

The election technique is also accompanied by terror and arrests. The election committee is appointed directly from sections of workers of the Ministry of the Interior. Of course, these sections see to it that no one who does not obey all orders is appointed to the committee. To assure the success of the elections, the sections of the Ministry of the Interior hold seminars for members of the election committee and give them detailed instructions on their work, particularly on "good" control of voters who are against the chosen candidates.

Election methods are a further proof of the antidemocratic nature of the elections. Candidates are chosen not from the basic organizations of the Front, but from committees and organizations of the Workers Party. Everyone eligible for examination as a candidate is minutely scrutinized at a meeting of the committees. If the committees find that the persons examined is loyal to the regime, the USSR and its "brotherly aid," and abuses Yugoslavia, he is a "good" man and may become a candidate for membership in the directing body of the Front. Thus, only persons approved by the party can be placed on the list of candidates.

The elections themselves had a new factor: state organizations made invisible marks on certain ballots for Front candidates, from which it was evident who had voted for or against the chosen candidates. What the Tirana leaders want is to detect secret enemies of the regime and destroy them. Considering that the great masses know nothing about this trap, it is certain that many Albanian patriots who have expressed their hatred of the present government will find themselves at Shehu's mercy. It is a well-confirmed fact that 3 days after the elections in Kukes, state organizations instituted proceedings against many persons betrayed by the markings on their ballots.

The political preparations for the election were also noteworthy. The police had the final voice in these political preparations. It organized the Front conferences. It summoned people to attend the conference and to vote by the very convincing argument that whoever did not attend the conference and vote for the list prepared by the Front (meaning the Central Committee) was an enemy of the people. Albanians are well aware that when the police calls anyone an enemy of the people, it means prison or the grave, internment or disgrace for the families, and confiscation of all property.

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